

DCFBP Minutes 12/5/17 Phone Session Minutes submitted by Rabbi Michael Beals for DCFBP review, then posted to our website.

Participants: Rabbi Michael Beals (Jewish), Sister Jeanne Cashman (Catholic), Shirley Ganao (Baha'i), Paul Pramod Mathur (Hindu), Flora McConkie (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints-Mormon), Rev. John Moore, Sr. (Baptist), John Sykes (Unitarian Universalist), Rev. Richard Walton, Sr. (United Methodist)

I Review of 11-15-17 Thanksgiving Program & Panel at Trabant Center, University of Delaware (UD), in conjunction with UD-Based *Better Together* and UD Hillel

a. Positive Observations

1. Text selections in the Program section from different faith traditions were great, as was pacing.
2. In Panel section, uplifting to discover so much we have in common between different faiths.
3. Energized by college students presenting selections from different faith traditions, these are our future leaders!
4. Wonderful opportunity to present Thanksgiving Program on UD campus, to touch students and faculty alike.
5. Opening Program section with Dick Gilbert aka Quiet Thunder, Honorary Chief of the Lenni-Lenape (courtesy of John Sykes), gave program a gravitas and dignified opening which was truly moving.
6. Attendees who are new to DCFBP programming were moved by spirit of friendship, cooperation and sharing during Panel Program, which gave attendees a feeling of hope and spiritual uplift.

b. Areas for Growth

1. Entire Program would have been compromised without Flora's interventions which included:
 - a. Providing notes for moderator Larry Morris, representing the Governor, including questions for panelists
 - b. Correcting spelling of names in the program and power point

- c. Review student moderator's script – including using more diplomatic language to explain Governor Carney's absence
- 2. UD Student Committee had promised Sister Jeanne a written program and last minute, without consultation, they chose power point instead (important change because gratitude texts from each faith tradition were supposed to be in program as an important take-away educational tool for those who attended)
- 3. Low turn out due, in part, to poor publicity. DCFBP should have had a more hands-on approach to PR, and event planners should have had a PR plan in place for UD faculty and students. Should have worked closer with UD Admin in getting word out, perhaps through Office of Student Life.
- 4. Avoid last-minute substitutions for readers, because new readers, not associated with DCFBP might change pre-selected texts, and these last-minute changes upset plans for the power point slides and program.
- 5. Be careful about involving new UD staff in the program, which can compromise outreach to different parts of UD interfaith community.
- 6. If we involve the UD interfaith group *Better Together*, be mindful that last year that the group was originally diverse in the religions represented, but now mostly comprised of only Jewish students, which compromised their interfaith outreach.

DCFBP members present said based on positive observations, we should try to host an Interfaith Thanksgiving Program next November, but working more closely with the Governor's scheduler to ensure his participation, and addressing all the area for growth opportunities to ensure basic details are addressed as stated above. The challenge will be to find on-campus UD partners to help make this program a success.

II Need for DCFBP Secretary

1. Per the first point above, under negative observations-areas for growth, it was clear that without Flora McConkie's intervention, the Interfaith Thanksgiving Program would have been severely compromised.
2. When the DCFBP first came into existence. Flora served as Secretary. (Note: According to the DE Office of Boards & Commissions, it is common practice for a member of each board or commission to serve in this role. Flora set the bar very high during her three years of service as Secretary of DCFBP. New duties within her LDS Church made it impossible for her to continue in this role.
3. Through funding provided by former DCFBP member Usman Sandhu, and mentorship guidance provided by then-DCFBP Chair Rev. Doug Gerdts, DCFBP was able to obtain the services of Steven Boone of Wilmington University to serve as DCFBP Secretary, as an intership. His duties including taking and posting of minutes and agendas to Board & Commissions website, timely reminders to Council members of upcoming meetings, as well as event planning and logistical support for Lunch and Learn Programs hosted by DCFBP. After Usman left the board, and following Steven's graduation, funding continued under Rev. Max Wolf.
4. Steven gave notice at the beginning of summer 2017 that he would no longer be able to continue in his role, and he created a detailed job description of his position with the hope that we would be able to find a replacement.
5. On December 13, 2017 - following our December 10th meeting requesting Governor Carney's help in staffing a part-time Secretary to help DCFBP meet its goals, I had a phone meeting with Ray Lewis, Deputy Director of Boards & Commissions. He said he would meet the following week with the Governor and convey our need for a Secretary, as well as follow up with the Family Services Cabinet Council, and establish a January 2018 follow-up meeting with the Governor to review his vision for DCFBP since our initial May meeting with him seven months ago. Mr. Lewis was of the opinion that the Secretary should

come from within the Board, and should be held on a rotational basis so no one Board member becomes overwhelmed.

6. It was the feeling of the DCFBP that our ability to carry out our vision would be based, on large part, if we had a Secretary who would handle logistics. In the absence of a Secretary, we should scale down our vision to accommodate what we can handle with no staff to help us.
7. It was felt that it was not practical to have the DCFBP Chair also serve as Secretary due to the Chair's limits and his weakness in delegating responsibilities (hence the lateness in getting these minutes out for review).
8. Note: John Sykes did a wonderful job in taking minutes and getting them out in a timely fashion when he volunteered to temporarily serve as Secretary at previous DCFBP meetings in June, September, and October 2017.
9. It was noted that pursuant to "Sunshine Laws," DCFBP is duty-bound to take minutes at meetings and then post them. One member pointed out that we owe it to the Governor to make sure we are vigilant in our taking and posting of minutes as our Council serves at the pleasure of the Governor.

III DCGBP Goals

1. In the past, DCFBP met with all the DE Heads of Government Agencies, with the help of then-Governor Jack Markell. These Heads wanted to meet with us. And through DCFBP Lunch and Learn programs, we created connections where DE faith leaders could meet Heads of Agencies, and learn about the different State programs.
2. The Original Executive Order 33, signed on January 4, 2012 establishing the DCFBP, was so vast, that it took a while to figure out what to focus on.
3. DCFBP strength has always been its Interfaith Panels, where members shared their respective faith traditions' beliefs with various audiences throughout the First State. We have shared our respective faith traditions sacred texts on Gratitude for our Thanksgiving Program at UD.

Some of us have shared our faith traditions' texts on Education for an initiative Attorney General Matt Denn launched at a December 10th press conference. This model, where we share our respective faith tradition's texts on various subjects and initiatives being considered by different State agencies, could serve as a useful model for DCFBP future involvement.

4. We have yet to meet with the newly reconstituted Family Services Cabinet Council, and some of us wondered if working with the Council might help us realize our true potential to realize Governor Carney's goals for DCFBP.
5. We could follow example of the Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships (OFBNP), established in 2001 by President George W. Bush, and expanded by President Barack Obama, which meets once a year and focuses only on issue, like human trafficking.

IV Potential DCFBP Action Items

1. If you look at Governor Markell's goals for DCFBP, they were too expansive. He expected us to pick one or two of the goals, and run with them.
2. Some members felt that issues like the Drug Overdose problem, singled out by President Trump as "a national emergency," could be a possible focus for our work.
3. Other members felt DCFBP should be furthering Disaster Preparedness through our faith-based connections for our various faith organizations throughout the State.
4. Current Delaware Agency Heads have no idea what the DCFBP is and how it could be of use. Some members felt we should be focusing on ways to raise our visibility with these government heads.

V Future DCFBP Meetings

1. We established the **first Tuesday of every month, from 2 – 3:30 pm**, as our regular meeting time. We established a non-Wilmington, more southerly location to accommodate our down-state Council members. We

established our next meeting at Tuesday, January 2nd, 2 – 3:30 pm, at the Smyrna Rest Stop. That was later changed to Rev. Rick Walton's Church, Ewell's St. Paul's Church, 401 West St., Clayton, DE 19938. (Note: failing to achieve a quorum for our January 2nd meeting, we are reverting to a DCFBP Conference Call for the same date and time).